

**REMARKS****Restriction Requirement**

The Examiner restricted the invention into one of three groups:

- Group I, Claims 16-25, drawn to a proton-conducting polymer membrane;
- Group II, Claim 26-28, drawn to a polymer-monomer mixture of a polymer and a vinyl monomer containing phosphonic acid proton-conducting membrane; and
- Group III, Claims 29-34, drawn to a membrane-electrode unit, and
- Group IV, Claim 35, drawn to a fuel cell.

**Reply to Restriction Requirement**

Responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the invention of Group I, Claims 16-25, drawn to a process for creating a proton-conducting electrolyte membrane, for further prosecution.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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